



DORSET PRIMARY SCHOOL- NO.5132

MOBILE PHONES AND DEVICES – STUDENT USE



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact the office.

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department's and Dorset's policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices such as smart watches during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- All students at Dorset and,
- Students' personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

DEFINITIONS

A mobile phone is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network. For the purpose of this policy, "mobile phone" refers to mobile phones and any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone such as a smart watch.

POLICY

Dorset understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At Dorset:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours
- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met (see below for further information)
- When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school's office.

Personal mobile phone use

In accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Dorset during school hours, including lunchtime and recess, unless an exception has been granted.

Where a student has been granted an exception, the student must use their mobile phone for the purpose for which the exception was granted, and in a safe, ethical and responsible manner.

Secure storage

Mobile devices owned by students at Dorset are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Students are encouraged not to bring a mobile phone to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Please note that

Dorset does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage or theft. Students and their parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items. Refer to the Department's [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#).

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Dorset will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Dorset students are required to store their phones securely as per their classroom teachers' instructions and expectations.

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones inappropriately at Dorset may be issued with consequences consistent with school policy. At Dorset inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours and inside the school gates**, unless an exception has been granted, and particularly use of a mobile phone:

- in any way that disrupts the learning of others
- to send inappropriate, harassing, or threatening messages or phone calls
- to engage in inappropriate social media use, including cyberbullying
- to record students, staff, or members of the school community without consent
- to record or photography in school toilets, change rooms, swimming pools and gyms
- during exams and assessments

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy:

- may be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, specifically,
 - Health and wellbeing-related exceptions; and
 - Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite.
- can be granted by the Principal, or by the teacher for that class, in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#).

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#) are:

1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty	Individual Learning Plan, Individual Education Plan

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plan

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Risk assessment planning
Students on excursions and camps	Risk assessment planning
When students are not on school grounds and unsupervised with parental permission	Risk assessment planning

Where an exception is granted, the student can only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which it was granted.

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Dorset will provide students and their parents and carers with information about items that can or cannot be brought to camps, excursions, and other events, including personal mobile devices.

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to

- Out-of-school-hours events
- Travelling to and from school

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website and Compass
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in school newsletter
- Discussed at staff meetings
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#)
- [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	August 2022
Consultation	Consultation with School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	August 2023